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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,779	07/14/2003	Koichi Sato	P23210	4035
7055 7590 08/05/2008 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191				
EXAMINER SELBY, GEVILL V				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2622				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/05/2008		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com  
pto@gbpatent.com

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/617,779

**Applicant(s)**

SATO, KOICHI

**Examiner**

GEVELL SELBY

**Art Unit**

2622

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 2-13 and 17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/050,868.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/003)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments see the amendment, filed 4/30/08, with respect to claims 2-13 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The U.S.C. 1-3 rejections of claims 2-13 have been withdrawn.

2. Applicant's arguments filed 4/30/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive in regard to claim 1. The applicant submits the prior art does not disclose that the image signal is paired with the data indicating the process order, as stated in claim 1. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

#### **Examiner's Reply:**

Re claim 1) The Muramatsu reference teaches the picture image data is stored in a work buffer (see para 53) and mathematical processing functions for executing picture image processing are stored in a separate recording area, picture image processing function memory component 13. The Muramatsu reference Further teaches that array management component 14 stores an address that designates a function that is stored in the picture image processing function memory component 13, as stated in the first paragraph of page 10 of the remarks. The Examiner reads the picture image data on the image signal and the mathematical processing functions in the array on the process order, wherein the image processing component 2 pairs the two together by indicating the address of the function to use on the image data and storing them in the array (see para 52). The examiner reads the memory component 13, the working memory, and the array 14a in combination as the components of the recording medium of the picture image processing device 1. Therefore, the Muramatsu reference discloses all the limitations of the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Muramatsu, US 2001/0010520.**

In regard to claim 1, Muramatsu, US 2001/0010520, discloses an image recording medium, comprising:

an image recording area (see para 53: work buffer) that stores an image signal, the image signal being subjected to a plurality of image correction processes in a process order (see para 53: image data is stored in the work buffer), the plurality of image correction processes including a gamma correction (see para 55); and

an information recording area (see figure 1, element 14a) configured to store data indicating the process order in which the image correction processes are performed (see para 51, 52, and 55: when gamma correction is selected it is added to the process order in the array variable 14a which stores the addresses of the processing functions),

wherein the image signal is paired with the data indicating the process order (see para 52: the image processing component 2 pairs the two together by indicating the address of the function to use on the image data and storing them in the array).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 2-13 and 17 are allowed.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:  
  
In regard to claims 2-13 and 17, the prior art does not disclose an image signal process order device and system with the combination of limitations specified in the claimed invention, specifically the limitations of:

an image signal restoring processor that performs a plurality of restoration processes to the corrected image signal to restore the image signal, the plurality of restoration processes being performed in a restoring order which is the reverse of the process order, as stated in claim 2 and similarly stated in claims 3 and 17.

***Conclusion***

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GEVELL SELBY whose telephone number is (571)272-7369. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on 571-272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lin Ye/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622